

proudly occupies today. When I work with my friends at Lexmark, I will confess that I am mindful of my grandfather's role decades ago.

Lexmark does more than produce great products and systems for its customers. It upholds an environmental ethic that has been in place since the company's inception in 1991.

Most recently, Lexmark's headquarters was awarded with ISO (International Standardization Organization) 14001 certification, which is the gold standard for environmental compliance. Only the best of the best achieve it. ISO 14001 is the world's most recognized environmental system management framework, and to be certified—as Lexmark has been—takes an enormous amount of effort.

ISO 14001 certification in Lexington is only the most recent addition to a long line of environmental achievements by Lexmark. Almost immediately after the company's inception in 1991, Lexmark initiated a novel and still-creative program for recycling used printer cartridges. Over the past 14 years this program has redirected millions of pounds of cartridges away from landfills and to recycling facilities. And these are not just any recycling facilities, but workshops that employ physically challenged adults to disassemble the cartridges for recycling in a safe environment.

Lexmark is exporting not only great products, but also its environmental ethic. Lexmark's site at Orleans, France, became one of the first companies in Europe to receive ISO 14001 certification. Lexmark Philippines has received national recognition there, not just for the company's commitment to environmental responsibility in every aspect of product design, manufacture, distribution, and use, but for efforts to preserve vital ecosystems as well.

Even more recently, Lexmark sites in Rosyth, Scotland; Boulder, Colorado; Juarez, Mexico; Chihuahua, Mexico; and Cebu, Philippines have met all the requirements to achieve ISO 14001.

I am sure my colleagues would agree that for a company to combine world-class products with a superior commitment to the environment and worker health and safety represents exactly what we hope American industry will do around the world.

Lexmark's participation as a charter member in the United States Environmental Protection Agency's EnergyStar program, its receipt of the Kentucky Governor's Environmental Excellence Award for Industrial Environmental Leadership, and its leadership in everything from "The Reforest the Bluegrass Program" in Lexington to Lexmark's Rainforest Project, which protects the indigenous peoples, plants, and animals of the rainforest, all reflect the unsurpassed commitment to environmental protection that defines the company.

The Lexmark Environmental Program has committed the company to three areas of concentration: the design of its products and services, its management of resources, and the commitment to being a responsible neighbor and employer. If the various awards Lexmark has received are any indication, the company certainly seems to be living up to its mission.

Mr. Speaker, you can see why I am so proud of my constituents at Lexmark. I ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to recognize the many outstanding accomplishments of Lexmark's employees recently and over the history of the company.

STATEMENT ON WAR IN IRAQ

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2005

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, this weekend thousands of Americans will congregate on the National Mall and in cities all across this country to protest the Bush Administration's elective war in Iraq. By raising their voices en masse, they hope to send a message to President Bush that he and his Administration, thus far, has been unwilling to hear: the American people don't support this war.

The war was always predicated on the false premise that Iraq was in possession of weapons of mass destruction. This Congress was negligent in not demanding more proof of the President and then refusing to hold him accountable for his exaggerated and unfounded claims.

His war strategy was equally flawed. He has failed to provide the resources our men and women in uniform need to be successful, and American lives have been lost as a result. In 2002 and 2003, Army Chief of Staff General Shinseki warned that not enough boots on the ground would lead to a power vacuum that our enemies would exploit. Tragically, his premonitions have been born out.

To date, approximately 1,900 brave Americans have been killed in Iraq, and there appears to be no immediate end to the quagmire in Iraq.

The American people are rightly asking whether we are any closer to a stable and democratic Iraq today than when the President declared "Mission Accomplished." If experience has taught us anything, it is that democracy cannot be forced upon a nation by gun point. Yet, military force seems to be Bush's preferable strategy.

A recent GAO report indicates that the Defense Department has no ability to account for billions of Federal dollars expended on the war in Iraq, and there are reports of widespread corruption within the Iraqi government. Iraq's own Finance Minister Ali Allawi admitted, "Huge amounts of money have disappeared. In return, we got nothing but scraps of metal."

Meanwhile, Congress continues to debate how the Federal Government will afford the recovery effort from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Some of my Republican colleagues have suggested that we cut spending on domestic programs for health care, education and transportation. The American people, by and large, reject this approach. A recent CNN/USA Today/Gallup poll revealed that a full 54 percent of the respondents felt that the relief effort should be financed by cutting funding for the war. Only 6 percent felt Congress should cut domestic spending.

In the debate over guns and butter, the American people have spoken clearly. Now all we need is a President that is willing to carry out the will of the people.

RECOGNIZING MICHAEL DAVID HERRING FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2005

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Michael David Herring, son of Mary Kay and Leon Herring of Saint Joseph, Missouri. Michael is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 31, and by earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout. Michael will receive his Eagle Award on October 2, 2005 at Saint Francis Xavier Parish Center.

Michael has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the 11 years Michael has been involved with Scouting, he has earned numerous merit badges, honors, and leadership positions. Michael has served his troop as Assistant Patrol Leader, Patrol Leader, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, Senior Patrol Leader, Quartermaster, and Troop Guide. Michael holds the rank of Tom Tom Beater in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say, and participated in Junior Leadership Training. In addition to these honors, Michael earned the Arrow of Light Award, Pope Pius XII Unit Award, and the Ad Altari Dei and Parvuli Dei religious awards. During his 11 years in the scouts, Brandon attended Camp Geiger for six summers.

For his Eagle Scout project, Michael planted five red sunset maple trees at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church. Once fully grown, the trees will separate the parking lot from the playground.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Michael David Herring for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

COMMEMORATING THE APPLING COUNTY GIRLS MIDGET ALL-STAR SOFTBALL TEAM

HON. JACK KINGSTON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2005

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I wish to commemorate the Appling County Girls Midget All-Star Softball Team on winning the Georgia State Championship.

July 24, 2005 was a day of victory for the Appling County Girls Midget All-Star Softball Team. They won the Georgia State Championship 6 to 3 over Jeff Davis County. These 11-12-year-old girls have worked tremendously hard to have an undefeated season and win the state championship. Each team member deserves to be commended on their team work and good sportsmanship.

The coaches of this Midget All-Star team have spent endless hours working with this talented group of young women. The members of the winning team are Laci Bass, Brianna Black, Hannah Brazzell, Rebecca Carter, Courtney Clements, Christian Collins, Taylor Dominey, Candyce Eason, Tori Hall,